



# World Council of Churches

**General Secretariat**

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Geneva, September 12, 2022

To:

- The family of Dr Gabriel Habib
- The Middle East Council of Churches

For this God is our God forever and ever;  
God will guide us even beyond death (Ps 48:14).

Dear brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the World Council of Churches, I write to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Dr Gabriel Habib. We mourn with you and the entire world at this tremendous loss for our Christian family, and in particular for the Middle East region.

We give thanks for the life of Gabriel Habib, who faithfully served the Middle East Council of Churches as Secretary General from 1977 to 1994, and for his many years of involvement in the ecumenical movement. Gabriel Habib witnessed to the vocation of the Christian presence and witness in the Middle East, as well as the need for Christians to be in dialogue with the great religions of the East.

Even before the founding of the MECC in 1974, as Beirut secretary of the Orthodox Youth Movement, and as the first full-time Secretary General of Synodos, Gabriel Habib played an important role in fostering an ecumenical spirit at the grassroots level and the involvement of the younger generation as a courageous and energetic factor of renewal and witness in the life of the church.

Gabriel Habib was committed to Orthodox churches being committed to the ecumenical movement and witnessing to the tradition of the one holy and undivided church without compromising their theological convictions. The World Council of Churches is particularly grateful for his membership in the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the WCC, and we give thanks for his life and witness.

May his memory be eternal!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca  
Acting General Secretary  
World Council of Churches